

DEC 06 2005

00002

South Delta
IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM
EIS/EIR

**Public Information Meeting
Comment Card**

Date: December 6, 2005

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Mike Wade Title (if applicable): Executive Director

Telephone: 916-441-7723 Fax: 916-441-7842

Organization/Business (if applicable): California Farm Water Coalition E-Mail: mwade@farmwater.org

Address: 717 K Street, Suite 417

City: Sacramento State: CA Zip: 95814-3408

See Attached

Please submit your comments to a project representative or fold this form in half, seal with tape and mail to Paul Marshall, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 215-30, Sacramento, CA 95814. **Comments must be received by February 7, 2006.**



**CALIFORNIA
FARM WATER
COALITION**

717 K Street, Suite 417
Sacramento, CA 95814-3408
(916) 441-7723 FAX (916) 441-7842

Board of Directors

Northern Region

Don Cecil
Outback Farms
Homer Lundberg
Western Canal Water District

North Central Region

James "Dick" R. Akin
Western Farm Credit Bank
Randy Fiorini
Turlock Irrigation District

South Central Region

Robyn A. Black
Anderson Farms
Jack Stone
Upper San Jose Water
Company

Southern Region

Beth Brookhart
CALCOT, Ltd.
Fred Starrh
Kern County Water Agency
Andy Horne
Imperial Irrigation District

At-Large

Lloyd Allen
Imperial Irrigation District
Brent Graham
Tulare Lake Basin Water
Storage District
Milo E. Hall
North Kern Water Storage
District
Elizabeth Hudson
Hudson Farms
Deborah Hurley
California Women for
Agriculture
Stan Lester, President
Yolo County Farm Bureau
Gene Lundquist
Kern County Water Agency
Daniel G. Vink
Lower Tule River Irrigation
District

Executive Director

Michael Wade

www.farmwater.org

DEC 06 2005

000002

Comments by
Mike Wade, Executive Director
California Farm Water Coalition

**Draft Environmental Impact Report/State
South Delta Improvements Program**

California Department of Water Resources
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

We've seen and experienced what self-serving objections have done to the CalFed program....it has been pushed into a morass of activity and inactivity that has jeopardized its future. The South Delta Improvements Program has emerged as part of the CalFed process and offers a positive path forward to both enhancing the water quality in the Delta and providing a flexibility of water flows through the Delta. It must not be allowed to slip into a similar pattern that prevents it from moving forward.

Temporary barriers have been in place for several years. The resulting flow patterns have been studied over several years by scientists and researchers seeking a means to improve the water quality in the Delta. The result of this activity has been volumes of data that indicate permanent operable gates, when operated correctly, would provide substantial benefits to the Delta.

The list of initial benefactors of this action begins with the Delta environment. The pools of fresh water collected behind the operable gates would immediately provide a safer environment for fish and plant life. Recent news stories of several Delta fish species have placed these species in jeopardy. Research is indicating that the pooling of fresh water may serve a beneficial use to their existence.

Salmon migrating through the Delta have long been a concern and, once again, studies are indicating that the South Delta Improvements Program and its permanent operable gates, when operated correctly, will aid in the survival of the salmon.

Will increased supplies of water be available to be exported south of the Delta be a result of the South Delta Improvements Program? Maybe...but that is why a second review period is scheduled to consider proposed operational improvements to the State Water Project. Early indications show that any increase in exports may amount to only 3 to 5 percent. Another important benefit of the permanent operable gates is the increased flexibility provided to the operations of the State Water Project.

Benefits resulting from the South Delta Improvements Program are spread not only in the Delta but throughout our state. The opportunity to move forward toward an improved water future for all of California is great and no criticisms from self-serving interest groups that employ a myopic viewpoint should threaten this future.

While the California Farm Water Coalition represents the agricultural community of California, we recognize that the benefits of the South Delta Improvements Program are widespread and urge implementation of this important program